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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico
November 5, 1948

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NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

NO. 319

FARM ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY - About the easiest way for us farmers to lose the voice we have in the administration of the farm program is for us to neglect to use that voice, says C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

"Under present legislation we can elect the committeemen who administer the farm program locally. We can elect the delegates to the county convention where the county committee is elected. From these community committees comes the leadership for the county committees. These county committees in turn are furnishing the leadership for the State Committee. Again from the State committees of the country comes the leadership for National administration of the farm program".

Ahead are vital decisions having to do with price support and soil and water conservation, the chairman points out. "That is why it is so important for the committeemen elected in the communities and counties to be the choice of the majority of the farmers in the communities and counties of the country."

All New Mexico farmers, who are eligible to vote, should participate in the elections, he urges. Failure to vote may mean that the committee elected will represent but a small portion of the farmers in the community. "You are helping to elect a committee whether you vote or not and you may be helping to elect the committeemen you don't want, if you fail to vote," Mr. Hemphill said.

"Unless the going is real tough there is a tendency to let such things as elections and similar responsibilities slide. It is when we neglect our rights that we lose them."

All farmers who are participating in the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program, Sugar Program, or who had a contract with the Federal Crop Insurance

Corporation for this year, are eligible to vote in these farmer-committee elections. Notices of elections will be posted before elections are held in each community.

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FARM PRODUCTION COSTS AT RECORD HIGH - Farm production costs have mounted steadily for more than 10 years, a recent study by the Department of Agriculture shows. This year they are the highest on record -- over 3 times the prewar average, and they'll probably be still higher in 1949.

Compared with the prewar 1935-39 period, here are increases in the 1947 cost of goods and services used in farm production: Farm machinery, 37 percent; building material other than houses, 122 percent; equipment and supplies, 40 percent; feed, 135 percent; fertilizer, 38 percent, seed, 130 percent; wage rates, 246 percent; all commodities except wages, 184 percent.

Net farm incomes rose faster than costs because farmers increased the volume of output by more than 30 percent and prices of farm products rose more rapidly than cost rates. However, this situation is now reversed. And with costs for items other than feeds moving upward and somewhat lower prices for products sold in 1949, net farm income will probably be lower next year.

In making new investments for production, the Department cautions farmers to consider carefully whether such investments will increase efficiency and reduce unit costs, so that carrying charges will not prove too burdensome in the event of lower prices.

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INCREASED INTEREST IN FARM PROGRAMS - Greater interest in the land and the people who farm the land is being shown by more and more people, says C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration Committee. Problems in connection with soil and water conservation, production, and marketing are becoming the concern of an increasing number of non-farm people.

Conservation is being taught in schools. Students are finding out how vital it is to the Nation to protect the limited topsoil from erosion and depletion.

The amount and quality of food available and the way the soil is being depleted is becoming clearer to more and more people who live in apartments. Libraries and book stores report an increasing demand for reading matter on soils and conservation.

Townpeople as well as farmers are attending farm conservation demonstrations. And the number of conservation demonstrations is increasing.

It is apparent, says the chairman, that more people are realizing that assistance given farmers under the Agricultural Conservation Program in the saving of the soil and assuring continued production is basically a means to improve and maintain the living standards of people in town. People generally are realizing that the assistance to farmers under the Program is a form of food insurance.

A better understanding of the interdependence of agriculture and urban life is everywhere apparent, the chairman points out. Townpeople are realizing that land cannot be maintained and production continued if the farmer "goes broke." That is the reason for farm price support.

The consuming public is increasingly aware, says the chairman, that price supports have contributed to the abundant production of recent years, without which "prices undoubtedly would have been higher than they are."

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CONSERVING WATER TO CONSERVE SOIL - Practically every soil conservation problem has something to do with water, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, discussing the importance of water conservation in programs to conserve soil.

In many parts of the country it is primarily a matter of retaining the water in the soil instead of letting it run off, taking the soil with it. This is done with vegetative cover in the form of pastures or cover crops, farming on the contour, terraces or dams.

In places where there is more water than can be soaked up in the soil, it is a matter of getting the excess water off the land without having the land go with it. This requires such measures as sod waterways, check dams, rip-rapping and practices which hold the soil while the water flows away.

Where water is the major limiting factor in farm production -- as it is in many western states -- conservation of water means increasing the ability of the land to produce. The problem here often is one of lining the irrigation canal to prevent seeping away of the irrigation stream to insure that more of the water reaches the land to be irrigated.

The disposal of excess water through drainage is a means of conserving the soil in that the soil is made useful for food and fiber production instead of being wasted in non-production.

The application of lime and phosphate to increase the growth of legumes and grass contribute through this increased growth to greater water conservation. More water is soaked into the land and the excess water can flow away without erosion where the land is heavily sodded.

Mr. _____ said that water conservation had been included in the Agricultural Conservation Program because it is often difficult if not impossible to separate soil conservation from water conservation. Even wind erosion results from not enough moisture in the soil to hold the soil particles.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

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ACP DIVIDENDS - Reserves of fertility in the soil for future abundant production as well as reserves of food and feed in bins, cribs, warehouses and grocery shelves are dividends on the investment the Nation is making in soil and water conservation, chairman C. V. Hemphill of the New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration Committee states.

Through cooperating with farmers in carrying out conservation practices, the Nation is building strength in the land that assures continued abundant production. Resistance to erosion built into the land through green manure, lime, phosphate, pasture improvements and similar practices, not only will protect the land against erosion but will strengthen its productive capacity to meet the needs of an increasing population.

It is more than just holding the soil for a "sustained production," the chairman points out, "it is building on what we have for greater production in the future. Only by increasing the productivity of our land can we meet the needs of a population that has increased 13 million since 1940."

He points out that when the Nation cooperates with a farmer by sharing the cost of conservation practices, as it is doing through the Agricultural Conservation Program, the people have added assurance that there will be plenty of food for a good living in the future.

"Full bins at the beginning of World War II and an abundance of food since the war are evidence that the investment in conservation is paying off," the chairman says. "The abundant harvests of recent years were due in large measure to favorable weather and other factors but the conservation work has helped make that abundance possible.

"The conservation work done by farmers under the program for the past 12 years will continue to return dividends. Continued conservation effort will assure continued strengthening of the soil and assurance of continued abundant production."

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SEE YOUR COMMITTEEMAN - "For further information, see your Agricultural Conservation Association committeemen," has become an often repeated slogan. C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration Committee explains who the "committeeman" is.

In about 30 thousand communities in the United States elections have been held during the past several weeks. In these elections farmers vote for their neighbor farmers to represent them in administering the Agricultural Conservation Program and related farm programs. The Agricultural Conservation Program helps farmers carry out soil and water conservation practices as a protection to the Nation's present and future food and fiber supply.

These elected community and county committeemen, nearly 100,000 in number, have in large measure furnished the leadership for State PMA Committees and National Administrators. Through these elected committees the door has been open for farmers to move up into administrative positions in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The immediate past and present Under Secretaries of Agriculture came up through the elected farmer committee system. N. E. Dodd, former Under Secretary of Agriculture and now head of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, started as a committeeman in Oregon. Albert J. Loveland, present Under Secretary of Agriculture, began as an elected community committeeman in Iowa.

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U.S. FACES PROBLEMS EXPORTING POTATOES - The U. S. potato industry faces many problems in building a seed potato market in Europe, says a recent Department of Agriculture report. The report is based on research studies exploring the possibility of broadening foreign markets for farm products.

Before the war, exports of potatoes from the U. S. were negligible. As a result of food shortages following the war, however, European countries were shipped significant quantities of potatoes by this country. During the past three seasons, 1946-47 to 1947-48, potato exports to Europe totaled 2.5 million,

9.3 million, and 8.4 million bushels, respectively.

Some of the problems U. S. potato exporters must face, according to the report, are:

- (1) Europe is fast returning to self-sufficiency in potato production;
 - (2) Seed potatoes from the U.S. are barred from some European countries because of the Colorado potato beetle and ring rot;
 - (3) Europeans prefer eating the yellow-fleshed varieties of potatoes, and use white-fleshed potatoes mainly for industrial purposes;
 - (4) U.S. exporters must pay heavy rail and ocean transportation charges, because potatoes are bulky.
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SCIENCE WIDENS FARM PRODUCTS HORIZONS- Science is fast broadening the usefulness of products farmers grow and market, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recently pointed out.

Calling attention to the benefits accruing both to farmers and the rest of humanity as a result of funds invested in farm research, the Secretary described how products originating on farms are increasingly assuming an important place as the source of drugs which destroy microbes and germs, alleviate human suffering and save lives.

Best known of these newer drugs, perhaps, is penicillin which, while not strictly a farm product, is a laboratory by-product of farm products. Discovered by an Englishman, Sir Alexander Fleming, in 1929, penicillin's usefulness in combating infection is unrivaled. The drug was not produced in enough volume until World War II. Then scientists of the Department of Agriculture's Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria, Illinois, developed a process of propagating molds in deep tanks on a nutritious diet of corn-steep liquor and milk sugar.

The process was adaptable to commercial production, and today about a dozen pharmaceutical houses are producing penicillin. The current rate of production is about 125,000 times larger than in the first 6 months of 1943. At the same time,

the price of 100,000 units has been reduced from \$20 to less than \$1. Value of the penicillin output is \$150 million a year.

Other new drugs which offer promise in relieving human suffering are subtilin -- product of waste juices from commercial processing of asparagus, citrus, and pears; and usnic acid -- derived from Spanish moss. Both show signs of being useful in treating pulmonary tuberculosis.

Tomatin, from the tomato plant, is being used in treating human diseases of fungi origin, such as athlete's foot. Polymyxin -- also a product of culturing mold and the outgrowth of the Agriculture Department's wartime research in synthetic rubber, is being used in experiments in treating Bang's disease in cattle, and may benefit human health by eliminating a source of undulant fever. Streptomycin -- isolated at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in the course of prolonged research in the micro-organisms of the soil -- is an accomplished fact in combating microbes and germs.

Another drug of recognized value is rutin, which has the ability to restore weakened capillaries, and may have added benefits now only suspected. First extracted from tobacco, it now is obtained from green buckwheat plants as a result of a search by the Department's Eastern Regional Laboratory to find a more economical raw material. Green buckwheat was found to contain about ten times as much rutin as the more expensive high-grade tobacco.

Today the drug is being manufactured by about 14 firms, whose output is valued at 150 million dollars a year. To farmers, the returns from buckwheat so used amount to about \$2 million a year.

These drugs are all dramatic examples of how funds invested in farm research has paid off handsome dividends. Less apparent, but just as real and dramatic are the benefits accruing from other investments in the public welfare, such as soil conservation.

In the prevention of floods alone, the soil practices farmers carry out on their farms have an almost incalculable value. By holding the topsoil in place and preventing its erosion, more and better crops are produced. Practices which check the flow of water, each year help avoid the danger of widespread floods which might cause the loss of many lives and the destruction of real property costing many millions.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

PRICE STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION - Plenty of food for everyone is the objective of both the price support and conservation programs administered by elected farmer-committees, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

"And as far as production is concerned the programs are paying off," the chairman said. "Farmers are producing the greatest crops in history and progress is being made in protecting the soil for future abundant production."

Price support -- or price stabilization -- programs aid the work being done to protect the land from erosion and depletion. The first step in conservation, Mr. _____ explains, is protecting the farmer and his family against ruinously low prices. "Price supports put a floor under commodity prices and keep them from going down so low as to put the farmer out of business. With that protection the farmer can go ahead with his program of agricultural conservation and abundant production.

"It gives meaning to the conservation work he carries out on his farm. Stability in the farming business encourages better care of the land through conservation practices which control erosion and build the land for greater production.

"Price supports and conservation, being thus closely related, are administered by the same elected farmer-committees. Loans and other price stabilizing programs with soil and water conservation fit into the pattern of greater security for the Nation."

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YOUR COUNTY ACP COMMITTEE - Every farmer serving as chairman, vice chairman, or as member of a county agricultural conservation committee was elected to that position by his fellow farmers. Elections are held every year and all farmers

participating in programs administered by the county committee are eligible to vote.

Explaining the election procedure, C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration Committee, points out that at community elections farmers of the community elect a local committee consisting of a chairman, vice chairman and active member and two alternates. These elections in New Mexico are now being held. The newly elected or re-elected committeemen will take office January 3, 1949.

The county committee is responsible for the administration in the county of the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Sugar Program, and various price support and related programs. The Secretary at the county office serves as Administrative Officer under the direction of the committee.

The Agricultural Conservation Program and other services are available to all farmers. There is a county ACP office in every agricultural county in the United States.

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FOREIGN MARKETS FOR U. S. FARM PRODUCTS STUDIED - Present and potential foreign markets for U. S. farm products have been studied in recent months under the Department of Agriculture's Research and Marketing Act program. From September, 1947 through June, 1948, surveys were conducted for no less than 30 different countries in order to size up the export situation for a number of commodities commonly shipped abroad by this country.

In western European countries, studies were conducted on the outlook for exports of fresh fruits, cotton, tobacco, and potatoes. The cotton situation was studied in Japan, China, India, and Pakistan. Rice was the subject of studies in Europe, the near Eastern and far Eastern countries.

Other studies under way include the tree-nut situation in the western Mediterranean areas, cotton utilization and production in South America, and a program of technical assistance to European tobacco manufacturers.

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SOIL PREPAREDNESS - Just as reserves of food are needed to meet human emergencies, there is need for building into the soil the resistance needed to meet such natural emergencies as floods, drought and wind.

_____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, calls attention to numerous disasters that result when land is not prepared for the unusual rain storm or dry spell. Land that is farmed with the idea of meeting normal conditions is not ready for the unusual.

He mentions specifically the excessive loss of topsoil in the Palouse area of the Northwest as an example. Heavy rains and long periods of drought are to be expected from time to time and the only way to meet them without the usual heavy loss is to be prepared.

After a severe loss there is an effort to prevent a recurrence but too often it is short-lived. Some farmers in the sections subject to wind erosion have not forgotten the dust storms and are farming to be ready for a return of this emergency but others are forgetting that dry weather and wind can again destroy the land.

According to _____, the best possible preparation against heavy rainfall or hot dry winds is the building into the soil itself the reserves of organic matter and humus that help hold the soil together and increase its water holding capacity. This means the use of grass and legumes in the rotation and using them often enough that the soil is not broken down through loss of organic matter.

Contour strips with a sod crop alternating with the cultivated crop provide the needed protection on some farms. Land not safe in cultivated crops should be in permanent grass or trees. Needs vary with location, slope and climate but there always should be enough reserve to meet emergencies.

The chairman points out that a major purpose of the Agricultural Conservation Program is to help farmers build into their land the necessary reserve strength to meet such emergencies.

POTATO SUPPORT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED - The United States Department of Agriculture has announced that farmers who plant within their potato acreage goals in 1949 will be eligible to participate in the government potato price support program. The support price will be 60 percent of parity. The commercial potato goal for New Mexico is 900 acres.

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POTATOES FOR LIVESTOCK FEED - Farmers and ranchers of New Mexico again have the opportunity to purchase Colorado potatoes from the Commodity Credit Corporation according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman State PMA Committee

These are U. S. No. 2 potatoes to be used only for livestock feed and will be dyed for the purpose of identification. They may be obtained in truckload lots in the vicinity of Monte Vista, Colorado at 10 cents per hundredweight in bulk only or in carload lots at 30 cents per hundredweight sacked and delivered to the purchaser's nearest railway receiving point. This price applies to all points in New Mexico except in a few instances where the freight rate from the shipping point in Colorado is more than 75 cents per hundredweight. In such cases the cost will be somewhat higher depending on the freight rate.

Producers desiring to purchase these potatoes for livestock feed should contact their County ACA Committee for details.

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DEADLINE REMINDER ON GRAIN LOANS - Here's a date to remember. December 31 is the deadline for making a loan or purchase agreement on your 1948 grain and bean crops. (February 28 final date for grain sorghums) If you still have wheat, oats, barley, rye on which you wish to borrow money from the government or take out a purchase agreement, you are urged to make the application soon. And here's why. Too many "last-minute" applications might make it impossible for your county PMA office to process your application by December 31.

As you know, these loan and purchase agreements are the means used by your U. S. Department of Agriculture to assure you 90 percent of parity for your crops. This guarantee has been set up by your Congress.

You can get full details about these government loan and purchase programs at your county PMA office.

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THAT WE MAY EAT - This year the Government is helping upwards of 3 million farmers carry out soil and water conservation practices on their farms. These practices include construction of terraces and contour farming which provide barriers to the rapid flow of runoff water. By checking and spreading the water, more of it soaks into the ground and gullies are prevented.

Other practices are the seeding of grasses and legumes to hold the soil and restore humus, and applying phosphate to make the grass and legumes grow better.

In general, farmers carry out practices which meet the conservation needs of their farms and of the area in which they live.

The main purpose of all this activity and this program of soil and water conservation, according to _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, is abundant production -- "not just for this year or next but for all the future.

"The amount of soil from which all people in the country must obtain food and fiber is limited. Population is increasing. Enough food for the future depends on keeping the limited land we have productive. If it washes or blows away or wears out and becomes unproductive that means just that much less land from which the food and fiber must come."

"So," says Mr. _____, "the next time you see a farmer applying phosphate, building a dam or constructing a terrace, you can put it down that this means something to all of us. The soil and water conserved through these and similar practices will go a long way to make sure there will be enough to eat."

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THANKSGIVING FOR BOUNTIFUL HARVEST - With Thanksgiving just past, consumers all over the Nation can be thankful for this year's fruitful efforts of farmers. Harvest of the greatest outturn of farm crops in the history of our country is proceeding rapidly toward completion.

Feed grains and oilseeds were produced this year in record volume, food grains are second only to last year's record, and truck crops and fruits are well above average.

With corn leading the way, the total volume of all 1948 crops has increased over previous record prospects to 37 percent more than the 1923-32 average. This is 11 percent above the previous high mark set in 1946.

Out turns of corn, cotton, soybeans, sorghum grain, rice, buckwheat, dry beans, potatoes, tobacco, broomcorn, and cranberries are estimated higher now than a month ago.

For most commodities, yields per acre in 1948 are above average; of principal crops, only rice, dry peas, and peanuts are below average. Highest yields of record are estimated for corn, cotton, soybeans, potatoes, and dry beans.

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MORE FOOD, LOWER PRICES, MORE CONSERVATION - Price floors and the Agricultural Conservation Program mutually support each other, says _____, chairman of the county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

The relation of the price-floor program to conservation was brought out recently in a statement by a soil scientist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture who has studied soils in all parts of the world. He pointed out that nothing disturbs this process of taking a long view so much as very high and very low farm prices. When prices are exceedingly high, farmers want to get all they can, because they know the prices won't last. When prices fall very low, they can't afford to pay the cost of needed conservation practices.

In the opinion of _____ (Name) price floors assure the farmer of a fair price based on 90 percent of the exchange value of his crops in the period from 1909 to 1914. With this assurance the farmer therefore is able to make the investments needed for the conservation of the soil on his farm.

That conservation keeps up the productivity of the farm is well illustrated by the production records made during and since the war. It is high production which tends to keep prices of agricultural products from going up and up. Those steadier prices enter into the calculation of parity, or exchange value of crops, and so help keep the exchange value of farm crops at reasonable levels. The increased production helps all consumers of food by providing plenty of it.

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